

Dear Training Officer,

In early 2008, the Intermountain Regional EMS for Children Coordinating Council (IRECC) conducted a survey of EMS agencies to assess the provision of family-centered care (FCC). Thank you if your agency completed this survey. We are writing to share the results of this survey with you, and to provide you with a template policy statement on FCC to adopt for your EMS agency.

The concept of FCC emerged in the second half of the 20th century, but gained additional momentum in the 1980s with leadership from parent advisory groups, and increasing research and federal legislation in the 1990s. FCC recognizes that providers should acknowledge and make use of the family's presence, skills, and knowledge of their child's condition when caring for a child. FCC is a mutually collaborative health care effort between family, patient, and provider and has proved essential in providing effective patient care.

Research on FCC has shown that the practice can improve health outcomes, patient and family satisfaction, along with provider satisfaction. In considering pediatric patients, FCC is crucial since the parent can be the child's primary source of strength and support. Considering this research, the Institute of Medicine recommends the widespread adoption and integration of family-centered care into emergency practices of EMS agencies and hospitals.

The IRECC survey found that 18% of the EMS agencies have a policy in place to support the provision of FCC in their agency. In response to both the IOM's recommendations and the attached survey results, IRECC has created a template policy addressing the provision of FCC within EMS agencies. This template policy is included for you on page two of this document. We hope that your organization's leadership will support the adoption of this FCC policy within your EMS agency. IRECC also developed a fact sheet to disseminate the survey results, and this is included for you.

If you have any questions or would like more information about this project, please e-mail IRECC's Chair, Kristin Lauria Gurley MS, MPH, at kgurley@utah.gov. The full survey results can be viewed at www.health.utah.gov/ems/emsc.

IRECC is an alliance that promotes the improvement of the entire continuum of emergency medical services for children (EMSC), recognizing common demographic and topographic characteristics and challenges of the intermountain region. IRECC is comprised of the EMSC programs from the following states: Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and the Northern Marianas Islands.